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23 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief Program Staff, (Special Activities)

SUBJECT : 1965 Activities on the Advanced Aircraft Program

1. This memorandum is for your information.

2. The advanced Aircraft program has as a primary objective, the development of a follow-on aircraft to the OXCART vehicle. The Soviet intercept capability is expected to constantly improve; at some time in the future the OXCART vehicle will become vulnerable to intercept, and therefore, less usable for over-flight programs. With a view toward an eventual replacement with a vehicle of lower detectability (thus lower vulnerability to intercept) the current program is being developed. We take a minimum achievable radar cross-section (aero-dynamicly feasible) flight configuration as a basic criterion for the development.

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3. During fiscal year 1965 it proposed to undertake the inital developments. These will be:

    A. Establishment, in detail, of the requirements and general configuration of the vehicle.

    B. Wind Tunnel tests on several model configurations.

    C. Radar range testing of several model configurations.

    D. Preliminary design of the vehicle and Payload.

    E. Initiation of development of the engine required for the aircraft.

4. It is probable that parallel efforts will be undertaken with two separate contractors for the 1965 period. At the conclusion of these studies, decision will be made on continuation of a single contractor toward development of flight equipment.

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5. I hope that this information will supply your needs at this time. It is planned to develop, during the remainder of 1964, further details on scheduling and a fuller definition of the capability and mission of this aircraft.

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SIGNED

(Special Activities)
Space System Division

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